



Borough of Okehampton

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEES

The following members of the Council served on the Public Health and the Housing Committees during the year:

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman

ALDERMAN W. T. LETCHFORD

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR R. TAYLOR

Members

ALDERMAN H. R. HORNE

ALDERMAN W. J. PASSMORE

ALDERMAN A. W. RICHMOND

COUNCILLOR A. J. D. BROWN

COUNCILLOR G. W. J. COOMBE

COUNCILLOR J. F. HAYHURST

COUNCILLOR C. G. JONES

COUNCILLOR MRS. I. V. KENNARD

COUNCILLOR F. A. PARTRIDGE

COUNCILLOR E. H. RAE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

ALDERMAN W. W. J. CORNISH

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR A. J. CROCKER

Members

COUNCILLOR R. GEE

COUNCILLOR J. F. HAYHURST

COUNCILLOR C. G. JONES

COUNCILLOR MRS. I. V. KENNARD

COUNCILLOR E. H. RAE

COUNCILLOR C. E. W. WHITE

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector


T. F. BENNETT, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant to Borough Surveyor

E. FURSE

Medical Officer of Health's Assistant

MISS P. B. FLETCHER



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29935362>

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1964, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION "A"

General Statistics

Area (statute acres)	786
Population – 1951 census	3,899
Population – 1961 census	3,864
Estimated home population – mid-1964 ...	3,840
Number of inhabited dwellings	1,300
Rateable value	£112,279
Product of the Penny Rate	£451
Loan Debt	£246,840 19s. 2d..

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	32	29	= 61
Illegitimate	1	1	= 2
			—
			63
			==
DEATHS	41	40	= 81
			<i>England</i>
			<i>and Wales</i>
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number		63	
Rate per 1,000 population		16.4	18.4
Corrected Birth Rate		18.5	
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS			
(per cent of total live births)		3%	
STILL BIRTHS			
Number		One	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		15.6	16.3
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ...		64	
INFANT DEATHS (deaths under 1 year)		Nil	
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		—	20.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		—	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—	
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE			
(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		—	
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE			
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)		—	
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE			
(still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)		—	
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)			
Number of deaths	Nil		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—		
DEATHS			
Number of deaths	81		
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	23.5		11.3
Corrected death rate	16.3		

POPULATION Year		Mid-year Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1960	...	3,900	11.2	16.6
1961	...	3,800	12.6	18.1
1962	...	3,800	12.1	21.3
1963	...	3,800	11.0	19.4
1964	...	3,840	16.4	23.5

The chief causes of death were as follows:

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	19
Vascular diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11
Coronary diseases	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2

AGE AT DEATH TABLE

Age				Male	Female
Under 4 weeks	...	...	...	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	...	...	...	—	—
1 —	...	...	...	—	—
5 —	...	...	...	1	—
15 —	...	...	...	—	—
25 —	...	...	...	1	—
35 —	...	...	...	—	1
45 —	...	...	...	4	3
55 —	...	...	...	5	5
65 —	...	...	...	10	14
75 and over	...	...	...	20	17
				—	—
				41	40
				==	==

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services

There was no change in the general provision of the health service during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No use was made during the year of the provisions of Section 47 of this Act.

Ambulances

The St. John Ambulance Brigade — under delegated powers from the local County Health Authority — provide a twenty-four hour cover for the district as a whole.

Mass Radiography Unit

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Okehampton in June. A total of eight hundred and ninety-five persons attended for examination. One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis requiring further observation was reported, and eighteen conditions other than Tuberculosis were also discovered.

War Memorial Hospital

During the year eighty-eight babies were born in the Okehampton War Memorial Hospital:

Okehampton Borough	...	...	...	...	26
Okehampton Rural	...	...	...	...	53
Other districts	...	...	...	...	9

Thirty-one per cent of the total births registered to the Okehampton Borough took place in the War Memorial Hospital.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply Sources

Supplies are from water-sheds on Dartmoor and there are two intakes. One at Newbridge, three miles from the town on the Blackaven stream, which has 7-inch and 5-inch intake mains and these have been in operation since 1939, while the much smaller intake by 4-inch main from Yes Tor on the Redaven stream some two-and-a-half miles from Okehampton has been in use for about sixty years.

Rainfall

Rainfall records are normally taken monthly at Cranmere Pool and Newbridge at the water-sheds and daily at the Filter Station and Pleasure Grounds.

The rainfall figures for the past five years are as follows:

	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Cranmere	68.00	87.93	83.85	81.85	74.55
Newbridge	53.50	65.60	57.61	65.80	83.60
Filter Station	41.26	54.39	44.92	52.03	71.57
Pleasure Gardens	41.57	54.55	44.42	50.00	73.30
Dry Days (no rain)	178	156	164	157	138

The driest months were January, February and September and the wettest months November and December.

The heaviest rainfalls were 1.21 on October 9th, 0.91 on November 13th.

Filtration and Treatment

The pressure filtration and treatment plant at Brackentor has been in continuous operation during the year.

The treated water is clear, soft, colourless and of excellent taste. Analysis indicates it to be of very satisfactory standard of purity both bacteriologically and chemically.

Chlorination plant is available at the Filter Station for immediate use in emergency.

Distribution

Zonal distribution giving stabilised pressure in both high and low level areas remains in operation.

Some lack of pressure is still experienced in the Eastern High Level Zone, but the North Devon Water Board are at present constructing a new 6-inch main from Tongue End towards Okehampton and will be extending this to connect to the Borough Water Supply on behalf of the Council. This should overcome difficulties being experienced.

During the year thirteen new connections have been provided and one hundred and twenty-five complaints received and dealt with.

Transfer of Undertaking

As from the 1st April, 1965, the Okehampton Borough Water Undertaking will become a constituent part of the North Devon Water Board's area.

Sewerage

1. DISPOSAL WORKS.

Preparations have continued throughout the year for a scheme to provide a Sewage Disposal Works at Hill Barton to serve the Borough.

It is anticipated that this scheme will be ready for submission to the Ministry early in 1965.

2. SEWER EXTENSIONS.

Three sewer extensions serving the Exeter Road, Chichacott and Lodge Hill areas have been constructed during the year.

Swimming Pool

During the year the Council have agreed that the site for the swimming pool shall be at the eastern end of the Pleasure Grounds and it is anticipated that during 1965 the Trust Body, who will lease the ground from the Council and construct and maintain the swimming pool, will be set up.

It is felt that the provision of an up-to-date swimming pool within the Council's Park will be a considerable asset to the Borough and benefit to the community.

Public Conveniences

These have been well maintained during the year. A part-time lady cleaner was employed at the Fairplace Gardens Ladies' Conveniences during the summer months, the results were encouraging, and this arrangement will probably be repeated next year.

Rodent Control

Two treatments of the sewer systems have been carried out by the Council's operator in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food during the year. Ten complaints have been received and dealt with.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The operation of the new Peacewater tip has presented certain problems during the year, principally arising from the fact that if refuse is burnt the smoke causes inconvenience to adjacent occupiers.

Every effort has, however, been made to avoid this and refuse is no longer burnt on the tip.

Considerable efforts are made to cover the refuse with soil although in a borough of this size it is difficult to find sufficient soil from excavation work to cover all the refuse. To supplement this a bulldozer has been hired on two occasions to scrape top soil from the remainder of the site.

The problem of self-ignition still remains, but when adequate top soil is available this can be quickly dealt with.

Much attention is paid to the control of flies and vermin and the frequent use of insecticide and periodic inspections maintains effective control.

Inspection of the District and Public Health Services

The number of complaints regarding Public Health matters received, recorded and dealt with during the year was fourteen.

The following table sets out the inspections carried out during the year:

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	136
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	28
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	39
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	80
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	55
Rivers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	123
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meat Shops, Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	50
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	2
Disinfection and Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	75
Egg Packing Station	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1
Informal Notices – remedied	...	...	...	...	...	9
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	364
TOTAL						980

Factories’ Act, 1961

Details of inspections carried out in accordance with the Factories Act, 1961, are set out in the tables which follow.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Number of</i>	
			<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	—	—	—
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	29	—	—
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers’ premises)	11	10	—	—
TOTAL	60	39	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

3. OUT-WORK (Sections 133 and 134)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	<i>Number of Out-Workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)</i>	<i>Number of cases of default in sending lists to Council</i>	<i>Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.)	1	—	—	—	—	—
...						

SECTION "D"

Housing

Town and Country Planning and Building Byelaws

Application for permission to develop under the Town and Country Planning Acts, Advertising Regulations, Caravan Site and Control of Development, Act, 1960, and the Council's Building Byelaws have been received over the past twelve months, as follows:

Alterations and Conversions	...	...	...	...	30
Advertisement Signs	...	...	...	...	7
Public Works	...	...	...	...	15
New Dwellings	...	...	...	...	28
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	3
Industrial and Shop Premises	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL					86

Of the above, seven applications have been refused.

Private Enterprise

Six new houses were erected by private individuals during the year.

Improvement Grants

Four applications for Standard Improvement Grants under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, were received and approved. Of these, two have been completed during the year.

Council Housing

NEW HOUSES. During the year architects have been preparing a scheme for thirty-four houses together with garages or car parking spaces for Pikes Mead in High Street. At the end of the year the preparation work was near completion and it is anticipated that work will commence on this estate towards mid-1965.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS. Normal maintenance and repairs have again been minor in character and all except electrical repairs have been carried out by the Council's maintenance staff.

Repairs are carried out as speedily as possible and during the year one hundred and ninety-eight reports were received and/or dealt with.

Arrangements for thoroughly cleaning, repairing and re-decorating each house on change of tenancy ensure the incoming tenant taking over a house in first class condition. Some tenants have been permitted to exchange their accommodation so as to prevent overcrowding and eliminate under-occupation.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Food Premises

The number of food premises falling within the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations are as follows:

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bread and Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hotels and Bars	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	8

Ice Cream and Preserved Foods

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows:

Ice Cream	25
Preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted or pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	6

Unsound Food

Seventeen certificates for unsound food were issued during the year and 148-lb. of miscellaneous food stuffs condemned.

Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse has been in regular use during the year and has been satisfactorily maintained.

Details of the number of animals killed and inspected and the carcasses, parts or organs condemned are set out in the table on page 12.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Applications were received for licences or renewal of licences to slaughter, and in all eight cases were granted.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Samples taken under Section 2, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Genoa Cake	} ALL GENUINE
Digestive Biscuits	
Cream Cheese	
Buns and Butter	
Margarine	
Lemon Jelly	
Skimmed Instant Non-fat Milk ...	
Fish Cakes	
Dried Baking Yeast	
Lemon Juice	
Beef Dripping	
Buttermints	
Canned Fruit Salad	
Dairy Ice Cream	
Baking Powder	
Soothing Powder	
Milk – nineteen samples	

- Milk – contained 3% added water. No action.
- Milk – seven 7% deficient in fat. No action.
- Milk – contained 2% added water. No action.
- Milk – two per cent deficient in fat. Verbal warning.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ... (if known) ...	224	1	3	622	522
Number inspected	219	1	3	602	482
<i>All diseases, except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	2	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	49	1	—	30	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci	22.37%	100%	66.6%	5.32%	5.18%
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.42%
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION "F"

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

Tuberculosis

During the year one death was recorded from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one new case added to the Register. At the end of the year twenty-five cases remained on the Register, as follows:

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
11	11	2	1

Infectious Diseases notified by Medical Practitioners

One girl and three boys between the ages of 5 to 9 years were notified during the year as having Measles.

Infectious Diseases notified by School Authorities

No infectious diseases were notified by the School Authorities during the year.

In conclusion, I would thank the Mayor and Corporation for the ready hearing my proposals always receive, and also all those members of the Public Health staff who have assisted in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

Medical Officer of Health.

